

STATE CONVENTION NUMBER



Vol. IX

OCULUS

No. 3

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
115 EAST 40th STREET

OCTOBER, 1947

CONVENTION

Starting on October 22, the New York Chapter is to be the host to the members of the New York State Association of Architects, of which body the Chapter is one of the constituents.

The yearly convention of the State Association is the one opportunity for the architects of the metropolitan area to meet the upstate men who will come to New York in force to discuss mutual problems and to attend the unusually large and complete exhibit of the newest building products and methods which will be a feature of the convention.

The headquarters for the convention's activities will be the Hotel Commodore where space has been reserved from Oct. 22 through Saturday morning, Oct. 25.

Well qualified members of the profession will lead panel discussions on Schools, Hospitals, City Planning, Housing, Commercial and Industrial Buildings and Industrial Design.

All Chapter members are urged to attend all sessions of the convention, not only for their own instruction and pleasure but also properly to carry out the function of host to the convention which the Chapter has assumed.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Place: Commodore Hotel
Grand Ballroom

Dates: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday October 22, 23 and 24.

Registration starts Tuesday, the 22nd and continues through Wednesday.

Registration fee: \$1.50

Subscription to Annual Banquet:
\$7.00

Subscription to lunches: \$4.00

Buy a book of tickets in advance at the Chapter Office and save \$1.00.

Register on Tuesday and avoid the rush.

ALL-DAY PLANNING CONFERENCE

The Regional Plan Association announces a one-day working conference for officials and citizens of the New Jersey—New York—Connecticut Metropolitan area, on Thursday, October 9 at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Among the novelties presented will be a discussion of the problems involved in the rapid and unprecedented growth of public and private flying in this area.

The morning discussion "Putting Planning Into Practice" will be presided over by our Ex-President Edgar I. Williams. The opening address of the afternoon session "How Local Airports Affect Your Community" will be made by Harvey Wiley Corbett.

Other subjects are "Problems of New Suburban Development" and "Private Flying in the New York Region".

At the lunch the speakers will be the President of American Airlines, Ralph S. Damon, Chairman of the Port of New York Authority Howard S. Cullman, and Assistant Secretary of State Garrison Norton.

Registration fee for the conference will be \$1. Lunch \$3.75. Address the Regional Plan Association, 205 East 42nd Street.

CANDIDATES

The names of the following candidates have been presented for membership in the Institute:

1. George Norman Blair
Sponsors:
Robert S. Hutchins
C. Herbert Wheeler
2. Santiago Iglesias, Jr.
Sponsors:
Leopold Arnaud
Simon Breines
3. Aland A. C. Krams
Sponsors:
Henry Otis Chapman
Lessing W. Williams

NOTICE TO VOTERS

Every Architect should register at the polls between October 6th and 11th.

Why?

If for no other reason because three housing referendums will be submitted to the voters in November, a subject which directly concerns architects—regardless of party affiliation—and on which they are particularly qualified to express an opinion at the polls.

Three propositions will appear on the ballot. One provides for an additional \$135,000,000 in loan funds; the others increase from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 the subsidies that the State can contract to make in any one year, and raise from \$9,000,000 to \$13,000,000 the total subsidy payments required in any one year.

The only way you can express your opinion of these three propositions is by registering in October.

Remember the dates: October 6-11.

CASE OF ADOPTION

The Oculus, which has led the hap-hazard existence of an orphan for the last five years, being tended only by a well meaning but somewhat harried stepmother, has at last been adopted by a family.

The head of the new family is Mortimer Freehof, the other members being Ronald Allwork, Philip Bartlett, Paul Jerman, Philip Johnson, Gerald Kaufman and John Klaber.

As in all cases of adoption, the new family's first task will be to learn the idiosyncrasies of its new charge, and in this, help is always welcome. Specifically, if you have advice, comments, criticisms or gripes, don't be hesitant but send them in immediately to any member of the family.

The stepmother, who acquired during the years quite an affection for her charge, will continue to act in loco parentis.

VETERANS HOSPITALS

Your Executive Committee is well aware of the grave concern of many of our members over the Veterans' Administration Hospital Construction program. In view of the fact that this is a Federal program, we naturally look to the national headquarters of the A.I.A. to follow developments closely on our behalf. This they assure us they are doing and that every possible means is being taken to insure the success of the program and the welfare of the profession.

The Executive Committee is keeping in touch with the national office and has invited suggestions or recommendations from that office on how we can help in the matter. We hope to report more specifically in the next issue of *Oculus*.

HARDWARE

Lessing W. Williams, currently Chairman of our Technical Committee, addressed the members of the hardware industry at their recent Convention in Chicago. The occasion was the annual meeting of the National Contract Hardware Association and the American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants.

Mr. Williams, who was the principal speaker at the Convention, stressed the need for a better working relationship between architects and producers of hardware. To that end, he offered the facilities of the Chapter's Technical Committee, whose prime function is to offer a platform to producers for describing their wares and to architects for discussing their needs.

Another activity of the Technical Committee, which Mr. Williams described to the delegates, was the plan, worked out in great detail by that Committee a few years ago, for setting up a technical research bureau for evaluating and disseminating information on a nation-wide basis. Should such a service be put into operation, it would be of inestimable value, Mr. Williams said, both to the producer and to the architect in collecting and correlating data and in improving the quality of products. This plan, like so many other architectural projects today, is in the formative stage.

On behalf of the Hardware Association, John R. Schoemer, Managing Director, expressed appreciation of Mr. Williams' efforts towards establishing a common meeting ground, and suggested that a joint conference be arranged between representatives of the hardware industry and the architectural profession, for the purpose of furthering these ideas.

LaGUARDIA

In the death of the former Mayor of New York City, Fiorello Henry LaGuardia, this Chapter has lost a valued Honorary Associate Member.

Among the thousands who paid tribute to his memory at the services held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Monday, September 22, was an official delegation from this Chapter.

To us as architects, the appealing characteristic of Mayor LaGuardia was his realization of the fact that the architectural profession, like himself, had the best interests of this City always at heart.

His place is one which will not easily be filled.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Gerald L. Kaufman, recently returned from a trip abroad, has presented to the Chapter a copy of his latest work, "Homemakers' Handbook". This entertaining and informative treatise on "what you need to know before you buy or build" is a welcome addition to our modest library, which already boasts a number of works by Chapter authors.

We know of others which might be added.

Our ambition, already several times expressed, is to build up a presentable Chapter Library, the first section of which should be a complete collection of members' works.

May we suggest a thought for the future? The problem of disposing of a library of books invariably comes up when an architect retires or moves to another city or to a better world. What more appropriate disposition of his architectural books than to consign them to the bookshelves of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., where they will be a lasting tribute to the memory of the donor.

OPPORTUNITY LIMITED

You will remember that in the last issue of *Oculus* we described briefly a plan proposed by Ben Small of our Education Committee for closer supervision by the Chapter of drafting and coaching schools in this area.

Directly in line with this idea, an offer has come to us to cooperate with

the New York Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, one of the five experimental schools established in New York State since the war by Act of the State Legislature. This school offers a two-year intensive course at post high school level to residents of the State, tuition free, giving preference to veterans.

The school plans to put into operation a system of cooperative education whereby selected students, divided into teams, will rotate between industry and the school. While in school they study mathematics, science, strength of materials, laboratory work, shop work and related subjects. While on the job they gain the practical experience which can only be found in industry.

Students are selected for the school from examination of their high school records, personal interviews, a health examination, plus a series of general ability tests administered in cooperation with the Psychological Corporation of New York. In order to insure that the courses offered meet present day needs of business, industry and the community, Advisory Committees, representative of business, industry and the community, have been set up to evaluate the work and make recommendations as to curriculum, instructor personnel and special educational needs.

Members of the Chapter, in the past, have been willing to give of their own time and facilities to assist in work of this sort which has not only been of benefit to the profession as a whole, but frequently of direct, if unforeseen, advantage to themselves.

Here is an opportunity for a few Chapter members to cooperate in a program which will, in the end, help to assure an adequate supply of trained draftsmen for the profession.

On the first of October ten young men who will have had six months' intensive training at the Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences will be available for employment in the offices of our members.

If you are willing to employ one or more of these men at nominal salaries and are willing to see that they get proper training while they are with you, please get in touch with Ben John Small, 415 Lexington Avenue, for further details. Only ten selected men are available now, so first applications will have first attention.